

**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY REGULATIONS**  
**Title 16, Division 39, California Code of Regulations**

**§ 4170. Ethical Standards of Practice**

A violation of any ethical standard of practice constitutes grounds for disciplinary action. Every person who holds a license, certificate or limited permit issued by the board shall comply with the following ethical standards of practice:

- (a) Occupational therapy practitioners shall comply with state and federal laws pertaining to discrimination.
- (b) Occupational therapy practitioners shall take reasonable precautions to avoid imposing or inflicting harm upon the client or to his or her property.
  - (1) Occupational therapy practitioners shall not exploit clients in any manner.
  - (2) Occupational therapy practitioners shall avoid relationships or activities that interfere with professional judgement and objectivity.
- (c) Occupational therapy practitioners shall collaborate with clients, caretakers or other legal guardians in setting goals and priorities throughout the intervention process.
  - (1) Occupational therapy practitioners shall fully inform the client of the nature, risks, and potential outcomes of any interventions.
  - (2) Occupational therapy practitioners shall obtain informed consent from clients involved in research activities and indicate in the medical record that they have fully informed the client of potential risks and outcomes.
  - (3) Occupational therapy practitioners shall respect the client's right to refuse professional services or involvement in research or educational activities.
  - (4) Occupational therapy practitioners shall maintain patient confidentiality unless otherwise mandated by local, state or federal regulations.
- (d) Occupational therapy practitioners shall perform occupational therapy services only when they are qualified by education, training, and experience to do so.
  - (1) Occupational therapy practitioners shall hold the appropriate credentials for the services they provide.
  - (2) Occupational therapy practitioners shall refer to or consult with other service providers whenever such a referral or consultation is necessary for the care of the client. Such referral or consultation should be done in collaboration with the client.
- (e) Occupational therapy practitioners shall comply with the Occupational Therapy Practice Act, the California Code of Regulations, and all other related local, state, and federal laws.
- (f) Occupational therapy practitioners shall provide accurate information about occupational therapy services.
  - (1) Occupational therapy practitioners shall accurately represent their credentials, qualifications, education, experience, training, and competence.
  - (2) Occupational therapy practitioners shall disclose any professional, personal, financial, business, or volunteer affiliations that may pose a conflict of interest to those with whom they may establish a professional, contractual, or other working relationship.
  - (3) Occupational therapy practitioners shall refrain from using or participating in the use of any form of communication that contains false, fraudulent, deceptive statements or claims.
- (g) Occupational therapy practitioners shall report to the Board ~~unprofessional conduct~~ acts constituting grounds for discipline as defined in Section 2570.28 of the Occupational Therapy Practice Act.

Note: Authority Cited: Business and Professions Code section 2570.20. Reference: Business and Professions Code section 2570.20.